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Book Reviews.

The Epistle to the Ephesians. By the Rev. Prof. G. G. FINDLAY, B.A., Headingley College, Leeds. New York : A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1892. \$1.50.

This is one of the recent volumes of *The Expositor's Bible*, and is well up to the standard of that series. The first lecture is taken up with a discussion of the authorship and the title of the Epistle. The conclusion is reached that it is one of Paul's letters addressed to the churches of Asia Minor, and "To the Ephesians" is a later addition. The internal arguments for its Pauline authorship are cleverly stated but do not compel our assent. The commentary is critical and at the same time popular. The author does not dodge the difficulties but tries to solve them. Some of the solutions are peculiarly his own. His exposition is clear. One may not agree with his explanations, but no one need be in doubt as to what he thinks the words of the letter mean. There is little attempt to make applications. The author seems content to make the meaning of the passage clear. The manner of treatment, the style and language are all such as to make the book useful to all who wish to study this strange Epistle. O. J. T.

The Epistle to the Thessalonians. By the Rev. JAMES DENNEY, B.D. New York : A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1892. \$1.50.

This is a very commendable volume of the series of commentaries known as *The Expositor's Bible*, edited by W. R. Nicoll. It should be said to Mr. Denney's credit that he has, on the whole, kept within the bounds of legitimate exegesis. He clearly draws the legitimate and necessary distinction between religious truth, the natural expression of the heart that has experienced the goodness of God, and the metaphysical treatment of such truth, p. 344. This is encouraging as another indication of the present revolt against the metaphysical speculations that under the name of Systematic Theology have dominated the exegesis of the Bible, doing violence to it and obscuring its meaning. The author has endeavored to understand and explain these in connection with the life and thought of the times in which they were produced. He has made them interesting and attractive because he has made them living letters. What he says about the action of the Holy Spirit in the early church, and the nature and value of prophecy ought to do much to correct prevailing erroneous ideas. Objection might be made to some of his explanations, especially of the apocalyptic passages in the second letter, and some of his applications are not very happy. But the volume is a good one, sober in its exegesis, putting the emphasis in the right

place. The Pauline authorship of the second letter to the Thessalonians has been seriously questioned. Unfortunately Mr. Denney passes this over in silence. A popular commentary, it seems, ought to give its readers the best information about all such critical questions. O. J. T.

The Resultant Greek Testament, exhibiting the text in which the majority of modern editors are agreed, and containing the reading of Stephens (1550), Lachmann, Tregelles, Tischendorf, Lightfoot, Ellicott, Alford, Weiss, The Bâle Edition (1880), Westcott and Hort, and the Revision Committee. By RICHARD FRANCIS WEYMOUTH, D.Lit., with an introduction by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Worcester. Pp. 8+19+644. London: Elliot Stock. N. Y.: Funk & Wagnalls, 1892.

This work, first published in London in 1886, is now re-issued in a cheaper form and with the addition of a brief introduction by the Bishop of Worcester, but otherwise unchanged. The text is determined not by direct appeal to the ancient authorities, but by the votes—to some extent weighed rather than merely counted—of modern editors. At the top of each page the editors whose texts have been consulted are enumerated, and at the bottom of the page are shown the variations of any of these editors from the “majority” text as printed above. Thus the text exhibits what may in a qualified sense be called the consensus of modern editors, while the margin shows the extent to which the minority dissent from the majority. For that large class of readers of the Greek Testament who have no leisure to acquire a technical knowledge of the science and art of textual criticism, this is a very convenient and useful edition, perhaps the best now available. The American edition is evidently from duplicate plates of the English edition, but is slightly inferior to it in paper and press work. We are grateful to the American publishers for putting the book on the American market. But it is hardly fair for them to erase the date of Mr. Weymouth’s preface, and the words “cheap edition” from the title page, thus giving the uninformed reader the impression that he has before him an entirely new work. E. D. B.

The Early Narratives of Genesis. A Brief Introduction to the Study of Genesis i.–xi. By HERBERT EDWARD RYLE, B.D., Hulsean Professor of Divinity, Professorial Fellow of King’s College, Cambridge. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Pp. x+139. \$1.

There is no important subject in Biblical lines, the beginnings of which may not be found in Genesis i.–xi. It may fairly be said that one’s interpretation of these chapters determines his interpretation of the entire Old Testament. The battle between old and new opinions must be fought out here; for with these chapters every contribution of science, Assyriology and Biblical criticism has had to do.

The present volume consists of eight papers, based on a course of lectures delivered at Cambridge in 1890-91. The object of these papers “was to discuss the contents of the opening chapters of Genesis, in a simple and